**Worship from Home**

**First Congregational Church of Blue Hill, UCC**

**Eighth Sunday after Pentecost, July 23, 2023**

Prelude

Welcome & Announcements

Introit *“Come and Find the Quiet Center” Shirley E. Murray*

Call to Worship (from Thom Shuman)

**One:** The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

**Many: And also with you.**

**One:** From the moment we open our eyes each morning, until we close them at night, God is with us.  
**Many: There is no one like you, our God!**  
**One:** In times when we are surrounded with struggles, in all the surprising places we find hope, Jesus is with us.  
**Many: There is no one like you, our Brother!**  
**One:** When we feel orphaned by the world, when we are welcomed into faith's family, the Holy Spirit is with us.  
**All: There is no one like you, Witnessing Spirit! Amen.**

*\**Hymn # NCH 422 *“Come, O Thankful People, Come”*

Come, O thankful people, come, raise the song of harvest home;  
all is safely gathered in, as the winter storms begin.  
God our Maker doth provide for our wants to be supplied;  
come to God's own temple, come, raise the song of harvest home.

All the blessings of the field, all the stores the gardens yield;  
all the fruits in full supply, ripened ‘neath the summer sky,  
All that spring with bounteous hand scatters o’er the smiling land,  
all that liberal autumn pours from its rich o’erflowing stores,

These to you, our God, we owe, source from whom all blessings flow;  
and for these our songs we raise, grateful vows and solemn praise.  
Come, then, thankful people, come, raise the song harvest home.

Unison Prayer of Invocation

**Gracious God, we come before you this morning asking that our hearts be open to your presence. Help us to leave here invigorated by your Spirit and seeking you in all places at all times. Help us to know that you offer us the possibility of holiness in every place, even when we have forgotten to look for you. In this hour, Lord, calm our souls so that we might hear your still, small voice and know that you are God. In the name of your son Jesus Christ, Amen.**

Children’s Message

Page 715 NCH Psalm 139:1-12, 23-24

A Reading from the Hebrew Bible Genesis 28:10-19a

A Reading from the Epistles Romans 8:18-25

Message *“Searched and Known on Holy Ground”* Pastor Lisa

*\**Hymn *“Jacob’s Ladder”*

We are climbing Jacob's ladder (x3)  
Refrain: We are brothers and sisters, all.  
  
Every rung goes higher and higher (x3) Refrain  
  
Rise, shine, give God the glory (x3) Refrain  
  
Keep on climbing, we will make it (x3) Refrain

We are climbing Jacob's ladder (x3) Refrain

Prayers of the People *(sharing of joys and concerns)*

The Lord's Prayer *(debts and debtors)*

Choral Response

Invitation to Give

Offertory

Doxology

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow. Praise God all creatures here below. Praise God above, you heavenly hosts: Creator, Christ and Holy Ghost. Amen**

Prayer of Dedication

**You have loved us into life, O God. When we have faltered, you have helped us start anew. When we have been without hope, you have sent us inspiration. When we have been ill, you have given us people who have showed us the way to health. Wherever we are, you are there also. In gratitude for your presence in our lives, we offer our gifts to you, O God of grace, that others might know of your glory. Amen.**

*\**Hymn #606 NCH *“Nearer, My God, to You”*

Nearer, my God, to you, nearer to you.

I’ll bear the cross as Christ calls me to do and pray each day anew

Refrain: Nearer my God, to you, nearer my God, to you, nearer to you.

When I am wandering as Jacob did,

And in the deepest night the path is hid, my dreams will bring me, too, Refrain

Let Jacob’s ladder fill the sky above,

And angels carry down the faith and love to keep this goal in view: Refrain

Then, waking from the night to morning air

By Bethel’s stone, I’ll know you heard my prayer, and how my yearning grew: Refrain

Benediction

Benedictory Response

Postlude

\* indicates where the congregation may stand as they are able.

Our thanks to our neighbor Clair Maxwell for filling in on organ and piano for us today!